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MEMORANDUM

To: Presidents and Chancellors
Tennessee Public and Private Not for Profit Institutions of Higher Education

Randy Boyd, Interim President, University of Tennessee

Flora W. Tydings, Chancellor, Tennessee Board of Regents

From: Mike Krause 

Subject: Veteran Reconnect Grant Request for Proposals: Academic Success

Date: September 16, 2019

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) is pleased to announce the fifth round of Request for Proposals (RFP) for Veteran Reconnect Grants. This initiative is a competitive grant focused on improving the success of veteran students enrolled in Tennessee Colleges and Universities.

Since the first round of awards in 2015, Veteran Reconnect Grants have funded campus services for student veterans and provided veteran-specific resources, such as the development of prior learning assessment processes and policies, expansion of veteran centers, and professional development for faculty and staff on the specific needs of students with military experience.

This fifth round will provide funding options to support student veterans' transition from the military into higher education, onto their academic success and preparation for the civilian workforce. Proposal options will include three potential areas for supporting student veterans in Tennessee:

1. **Individual institutions** focusing on new and/or innovative programs, policies, or procedures along the spectrum of student veterans attendance in higher education

2. **Collaboration between institutions** to meet the needs of student veterans through collaboration between institutions or coordination of higher education governing bodies focusing on new and/or innovative programs, policies, or procedures along the spectrum of student veterans attendance in higher education
3. **Research** conducted by faculty regarding the academic performance factors of student veterans attending public higher education institutions across the state of Tennessee and/or research into recommendations for academic supports for student veterans

The 2019-20 Veteran Reconnect program will provide grants of up to 12 or 24 months with funding amounts of approximately \$50,000 - \$150,000 for individual or research proposals or up to \$200,000 for collaborating institutions or governing bodies. The intent of these grants is to create new and innovative programs or research focused on the academic performance of student veterans' in postsecondary education in Tennessee. The intent is not to request funds to meet unfunded institutional needs.

Please be aware of a few important dates:

- THEC will host an informational webinar for the Veteran Reconnect Grant. At least one representative from each institution applying for the grant should plan to attend the webinar in order to qualify for the maximum points on the scoring rubric. Recordings of the webinars will also be available.
 - Webinar: **Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 10:00 AM (CT)**
Webinar Link:
<https://tngov.webex.com/tngov/j.php?MTID=m129b49b3bca2e95e6521c60ab1f875fb>
- Letters of Intent to Submit are due on **Friday, October 4, 2019 at 12:00 PM (CT)**
- Full proposals are due on **Friday, October 18, 2019 by 12:00 PM (CT)**. Please see the RFP for key dates regarding the application, review process, and the format for proposals.

THEC looks forward to receiving your submissions.

cc: Betty Dandridge-Johnson